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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON JAKARTA GOVERNOR SUTIYOSO

¶1. On February 16, Ambassador Pascoe, accompanied by DCM and Management Counselor, paid his farewell call on Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso. Sutiyoso was joined by several staff members including his senior advisors on land issues from the historical preservation, city planning and zoning offices.

¶2. The Ambassador thanked the Governor for his support over the past two-plus years and the professionalism of his team, and asked for his continued support of the Embassy's New Embassy Compound proposal. Governor Sutiyoso advised that his staff had nearly completed its review of our building proposals and would soon advise of his office's approval in principle of our requests. He said he did not see any major issues that would get in the way of his approval.

¶3. The Governor then turned to the recent flooding in Jakarta, and related that in light of the 13 rivers running into Jakarta, flood control should be the responsibility of the central government. He said that after the flooding of 2002 he had raised the issue of flood control, but complained that the central government had not taken his concerns seriously. Now, though, he said the government is paying attention. The Governor expressed his concerns that sanitation and health problems are the next phase of the flooding situation, and called on businesses and the international community, specifically the UN, to assist.

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